

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

KCS

Date: 6/24/80

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This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

Facility: Chemetron Corporation
Inorganic Chemicals Division
Chicago, IL 60666
License No. SUB-1357

SUBJECT: APPARENT DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT PRIVATELY OWNED INDUSTRIAL WASTE DUMP

On June 18, 1980 three Radiation Specialists from Region III (Chicago) discovered surface contamination of about 1 mrad/hr over a circle of 10 feet in diameter, and two small pieces of concrete with one surface having a yellow material reading ~5 mrad/hr. The items were discovered in a dump site owned by McGean Chemical Company, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, a business associate of the licensee. The dump site is located north of the 2910 Harvard Ave. site of McGean in Cleveland, Ohio. The site was identified by an allegor on the day of the survey.

Soil and water samples were taken by the inspectors for isotopic identification and activity analysis. The results are not yet available. The radioactive material may be depleted uranium, since this was being processed by Chemetron Corporation at the McGean Plant location.

The licensee and his business associate were informed of the findings and have agreed during telephone conversations on June 23, 1980, to repair the fence surrounding the dump, patrol the area twice a day, perform an assessment to identify the source of the material, and submit the results of this assessment to Region III. Further actions, including a possible detailed site survey, will be determined at that time.

There has been no news media interest at this time. Neither the licensee nor Region III plans a press release; however, Region III will respond to any inquiries.

The State of Ohio Public Health Department is being informed.

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This information is current as of 3:05 p.m. CDT, June 23, 1980.

Contact: D. J. Sreniawski, RIII 384-2513

A. B. Davis, RIII 384-2510

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